

## INTRODUCTION

Fort Fisher was constructed during the Civil War to guard the entrance to New Inlet and provide protection for the port of Wilmington. Under the direction of Colonel William Lamb the fortification was developed into a formidable structure that enabled blockade-running activities to continue long after other southern ports had fallen into Union hands.

When designated a state historic site in 1960, Fort Fisher had sustained considerable damage from occupation as a United States Army training base during World War II as well as from severe erosion along the oceanfront. Development plans for the historic site included reconstruction of a portion of the fortification and the construction of a bombproof as an interpretive exhibit. To obtain architectural and construction details a bombproof under one of the surviving traverses was excavated.